low irrigation demands and excess hydel generation during the monsoon months.

Doyang Hydel Project

2772. SHRI KHYOMO LOTHA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Doyang Hydel Project has been started and if so, what is the quantum of project work completed till date and the amount invested therein so far;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Central Government is contemplating to abandon the project;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) how much land is required for the project and how much land has been actually acquired by paying compensation and at what rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) The Doyang hydel project is being executed by NEEPCO. Certain infrastructural development works like temporary and permanent buildings and internal roads have been nearly completed. Excavation of approach channel and exit tunnel of diversion tunnel and about 200 metres of diversion tunnel boring have been completed. 106730 cubic metres of excavation for the power house has been completed. Work on main dam has been awarded but could not start for want of land acquisition in quarry area and conveyor system. A sum of Rs. 55.06 crores has been invested upto October, 1991.

(b) and (c) No decision to abandon the project has been taken. However, due to various local problems including delay in land acquisition, the cost and the progress of the project have been affected,

(d) Against the total requirement of land assessed at 3408 hectares, the land acquired so far is 1608 hectares. Unit rate for compensation for land already acquired was increased from Rs. 13,000 per hectare in July, 1985 to Rs. 95,000 per hectare in December, 1990. Average rate per hectare for which bills have now been received is Rs. 1,20,000.

DESU Losses due to Theft and Illegal Connection

2773. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DESU is losing more than hundred crores due to power theft and illegal connections in Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) It is not possible to segregate the commercial losses on account of theft of electricity from the total transmission & distribution losses. However, as a result of the various measures taken by DESU, including vigorous action against theft of power, the Transmission & Distribution losses have been brought down from 24.6% in 1988-89 to 19.68% in 1990-91.

Australian help for Setting up of Power Units

2774. KUMARI CHANDRIKA PREMJI KENIA: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Australia are setting up a Joint Working Group for taking up Power Projects in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of such projects;